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THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY.

For 1877.

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THE DIRECTORY FOR TAKU.

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THE FOREIGN SETTLEMENTS OF

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Chromo-lithograph Plate of the NEW

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PEKING;

And of the various HOUSE FLAGS

(Designed expressly for the Work);

and

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The Chronicle and Directory is the only publication of its kind for China and Japan, and it will be found invaluable in all Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

It is published in two forms—Complete at \$5; or with the Lists of Residents, Port Directories, Maps, &c., at \$3.

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NOTICE.

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FAMILY AND DISPENSING

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NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of Orders it is particularly requested that all business communications be addressed to the Firm, A. S. WATSON and Co., or

227 HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

BIRTHS.

At Canton, on the 25th January, the wife of S. P. Marshall, I. M. Ousborn, of a Son.

At Whampoa, on the 24th January, Mrs. CAMERON, of a Son.

DEATHS.

At the Government Civil Hospital, Hongkong, on the morning of 19th January, Mr. J. C. BRETT, late chief officer of the steamer Kuan-kiang, aged 33.

On the 21st January, at the residence of Mr. Macdonald, West Point, Hongkong, ALEXANDER, infant son of Thomas and Isabella Lund, aged 10 months, died, aged 10 months.

At Hongkong, on 11th January, Mr. John John Stewart, Boarding House keeper.

At Pugoo Anchorage, Foochow, on the 18th January, MARIE ELIZABETH (de Ruy de Lava), the beloved wife of Prosper Giquel, aged 29 years.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, FEBRUARY 1, 1877.

So little is known of Corea and its people that every fresh contribution to its general stock of information is hailed with interest and satisfaction. For this reason the letters of "Phil-Coracanus" are always read with attention. Until within the last twelve months—prior to the conclusion of the treaty between Japan and Corea—sarcely any fresh fact about this self-isolated race have been gathered by Europeans, either directly or indirectly, since the middle of the eighteenth century. And even what little has been picked up at second-hand from the

Japanese does not amount to a great deal, or throw much light either upon the resources of the country or the manners and customs of its inhabitants. The earliest account of Corea as a kingdom date back to about eleven hundred years before the Christian era. Since that time it has been several times conquered by the Chinese, and once by the Tartars. The Japanese also overran and subdued it, in the latter part of the sixteenth century, but did not attempt to keep possession. It has now been a tributary to China for more than fifteen hundred years, and the vassalage of the King of Corea has usually been of the most servile character. The climate of the country is severe, and in the northern parts of the kingdom it is impossible to grow rice. Wild animals abound, and especially in the latter part of the year, when the crops have been gathered, there is a good demand in China. The southern provinces are reported to be fertile, and to produce rice, millet, and other sorts of grain, together with cotton, flax, and silk, while tobacco is extensively grown. Minerals of iron, lead, and silver exist in the country, but no trustworthy information has ever yet been obtained of their probable value. Wild animals abound; hence skins are very plentiful, and already form an article of export.

The manufacturers of the Coreans are of a small size, and they are all of the rudest and most primitive fashion. Even now they possess no money beyond rough pieces of copper and ingots of silver without any mark or stamp on them. This latter is, no doubt, the cause of their poverty, and will be the cause of their future dependence upon the Porte, that this was a measure the Porte desired not undertake, as it would, in all probability, harass the Musulman population. It is undoubtedly a serious step, and nothing but a strong sense of its necessity would have induced the Turkish Government to take it. But while the Turks evidently deeply resented the attempt to dictate to them, they could not be blind to the gravity of the situation, and, though this change is doubtless extremely repugnant to them, they have submitted to its necessity in order to rob Russia of any excuse for commencing hostilities. The aspect of affairs in the East of Europe is now much changed, and the prospects of an immediate war are faint. The fact that Prince Milor of Servia is in communication with the Porte, and willing to negotiate a peace is, moreover, pretty good proof that the difficulty has for the present been tide over. How Russia regards the altered condition of affairs is doubtful. She has palpably been checkmated, and the Government of St. Petersburg cannot avoid being ratiocinated at this obvious fact; but she has also room for satisfaction in the circumstance that she has escaped the necessity of fighting. Her unreadiness and weakness seem only to have been discovered when the struggle appeared imminent. It can scarcely be doubted, however, that the war has only been postponed, for Russia will manage or at least stir up some other cause of dissension, and prepare in the meantime for a trial of strength with her rivals. How far the present pacification of the question has really been due to diplomacy, how far to general indecision on the part of the Powers, and how far to the character of the Porte, we cannot say. The fact is, that Prince Milor of Servia is in communication with the Porte, and willing to negotiate a peace is, moreover, pretty good proof that the difficulty has for the present been tide over. How Russia regards the altered condition of affairs is doubtful. She has palpably been checkmated, and the Government of St. Petersburg cannot

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NEWS FOR THE ENGLISH MAIL.

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT
AND THE AGRICULTURISTS.

The agrarian disturbances in Japan have already borne fruit. The Government has, with great wisdom, resolved to remove all cause for dissatisfaction among the rural population, and to this end has made a great concession to the farmers. An Imperial decree, dated the 25th ult., has been issued stating that the Mikado, having recently visited various parts of his dominions, and carefully observed the agricultural population, out of sympathy for their condition, it has been determined to still further reduce the land-tax to two and a half per cent. on the value of the land. This measure will relieve the landholders amounting to some nineteen millions of yen, half of this being land-tax, and the remainder taxation for local purposes. As a matter of course so vast a reduction could not be made without involving either fresh taxation in another direction, or a general retrenchment in the public expenditures. The Government has determined, however, to provide for it by the latter course, and large reductions in the expenditure of the various Departments have been made accordingly, amounting in all to nearly seven millions of yen. A reduction in the salaries of officials has also taken place, while the Department of Police, and the Bureau of Police, have been entirely abolished, and the affairs formerly treated of by them transferred to the Nalman (Home) Department. Other changes are reported to have been made, and it is in contemplation to reduce the expenditure for the Imperial household on the return of His Majesty from his projected visit to Korea. A sum of some eight millions of yen it is calculated would arise from the measure for the capitalization of his income of the nobles and gentry, and this sum will about make up the remainder of the deficiency caused by the reduction in the land-tax. But the concession to the agriculturists will necessarily compel the Government to practice several measures to make both sides meet, and will undoubtedly allow the speaker of public works. The construction of roads and railways, and the opening of mines will now either have to be postponed or proceeded with on a small scale, for there will be funds available for the carrying of the sort of work at present. But, on the other hand, it may be hoped that the agriculturists will be pacified and contented, and the land freed from further injurious agitation and destructive rebellions. There will be no cause for such risings, and it is to be presumed that the bucolic rulers will be disengaged and gone home to resume their agricultural pursuits. Now that the Japanese Government has made this great and costly concession to the peasants, it is to be hoped that it will make one less costly, but almost as much needed, to the native Press. The Press laws have been harshly interpreted, and have proved a serious gag on the expression of free opinion. The Government might easily indulge the Press with a little more liberty, and would thereby avoid raising a great deal of trouble. The influence of the Press is in no way impaired by the persecution to which it has been subjected, but on the contrary a great deal of sympathy has been roused for it which may, by and by, assume a character identical with the Administration. Any attempt to bark the expression of public opinion by a Government must always be regarded as a confession of weakness, likely to impair its authority and weaken its hold on the affections of the people.

Since writing the above a rumour has been published according to which the Press laws are to be administered with much less severity than has hitherto characterized them. It is said that offences against them will in future be punished by fine only and not by imprisonment. It is to be hoped the report may prove correct.

HONGKONG HOTEL COMPANY,
LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the shareholders of the above company was held at the hotel on the 22nd ultmo. There were present Mr. O. E. Bell, in the chair, Mr. E. B. Bell, Mr. F. F. Gossman, J. F. Marfeld, H. Smith, W. B. Landolt, J. Cohen, A. E. Vacher, Reiners, and L. Hausehild, secretary. The following is the report.

REPORT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.
The account shows a credit-balance of \$7,378.83, being an amount of \$537.29 on the 21st ultmo. The Directors, with your concurrence, propose to distribute of the amount among the Shareholders a dividend of \$2.50 per share, thus absorbing a sum of \$4,645, and to write the balance \$2,733.33 off "Hotel and Furniture" account.

DIRECTORS.

On the departure of Mr. S. E. Burrows from the Colony, Mr. C. H. Burrows was elected to the vacant place, and, according to section 29 of the Articles of Association, two of the directors, Messrs. B. H. Bell and O. E. Bell, were re-elected. The motion of Mr. BELL was seconded by Mr. BELLARD, the auditors, Messrs. H. Smith and A. E. Vacher, were re-elected.

The CHAIRMAN said the dividend would be paid on or before the 10th proximo, and thanked those present for their attendance. A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.

PRIZE DAY AT THE GENERAL
SCHOOL.

The annual examination of the population, in the Central School and the districts, took place on the 28th ultmo. The prizes were presented to the successful pupils by His Excellency the Governor. Amongst these presents were the Colonial Secretary, the Colonial Chaplain, Mr. Justice Snowdon, Captain O'Callaghan, and several ladies. The maximum number of scholars enrolled during the year 1876 was the same as in 1875, viz. 400, the average number of scholars in the districts, but it is satisfactory to find that there has been marked improvement in the average attendance, as is shown by the following figures.—In 1875 the average monthly attendance was 41.64, and in 1876, 41.76, showing an increase of 1.02; in 1875 the average daily attendance was 378.93 and in 1876, 379.76, showing an increase of 0.83. The examination paper was of sufficient length to test the acquirements and progress of the schools. The examination paper for the first class embraced questions in algebra as far as double equations and all the rules of arithmetic. The examination paper for the

great portion of the community. The Chinese community especially ought to be grateful to this Government, as the instrument of our most glorious Queen, for diminishing the number of those who have been compelled to flee from their native land, and to seek a refuge in the schools and arsenals of the Empire. The knowledge acquired will be suggestive to them of means and appliances for the development of the material resources of that native land. If a Chinese Min should ever be established there will be no danger, if it be employed in the service of the Government, as the Chinese are not to be regarded as inferior to us in any way. The Chinese who have had to pay, will receive one silver tael and, simple without any mixture of the more precious metal, as we are in the case of the precious metal. The mechanical drawing and English composition were, however, very well done. The special objects of examination were a practical application of the rules of measurement to surfaces and solids. The translations from English into Chinese, and from Chinese into English consisted of passages which the boys had never seen before; the former was a description of silver, and the latter an explanation of the collapse of the Chinese wall. The question in examination were a practical application of the rules of measurement to surfaces and solids. The translations from English into Chinese, and from Chinese into English consisted of passages which the boys had never seen before; the former was a description of silver, and the latter an explanation of the collapse of the Chinese wall.

— (Applause.)

The Director begged to thank the shareholders for the accounts of the Company for the half-year ending 31st December last.

After paying the expenses of the annual general meeting, salaried repair, and the sum of \$1,453.80 for completion of the extraordinary repairs to the Kintek and Spar, allotted to the last report, there remain, including \$5,039.24 brought forward from last account, the net profit of \$80,099.84, which, in the opinion of the Directors, is a fair representation of the working of the Company, and the amount of the dividend proposed to be paid.

— (Applause.)

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THE HONGKONG, TIENTON, AND MACAO
STEAMBOAT COMPANY, LIMITED.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of shareholders of the above company was held in the City Hall, Hongkong, on the 25th ult. There were present Mr. W. Keastok (Chairman), Messrs. J. R. Bell, W. E. Bell, Mr. F. F. Gossman, Mr. G. Glaser, A. B. Davies, A. F. Cook, W. M. Morgan, A. Coxon, and P. A. de Costa (Secretary). The following is the

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